



## Borinqueneers CGM Alliance

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Greetings Connecticut General Assembly,

My name is Frank Medina, National Chair and founder of the Borinqueneers Congressional Gold Medal Alliance (BCGMA) sponsored by the You Are Strong! Center on Veterans Health and Human Services. The BCGMA is a national volunteer group which spearheaded the advocacy efforts to procure the Congressional Gold Medal (CGM) for the 65<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment "Borinqueneers" of Puerto Rico. The Congressional Gold Medal is the nation's highest civilian recognition. On June 10<sup>th</sup>, 2014, President Barack Obama signed the legislation conferring the CGM to the 65<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment. This was a momentous milestone for the history of the 65<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment, Puerto Rico and all of Latino veterans.

Therefore, it is with distinct pleasure to wholeheartedly support State Representative Christopher Rosario's legislation HB 6336, which names a portion of East Main St. in Bridgeport after the 65<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment "Borinqueneers". Keeping the "Borinqueneers" torch lit is imperative in enshrining the heritage of the 65<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment in the public conscious and for our future generations. Legislation HB 6336 aptly aims to achieve this end.

As a native of Bridgeport, this legislation could not make me more proud to see my hometown wanting to memorialize these heroes in admirable fashion, especially in the neighborhood I frequented most often. Growing up in Bridgeport, I always envisioned making a meaningful difference in the East Side of Bridgeport. The street renaming in honor of the Borinqueneers will undoubtedly fulfill this aspiration.

The passage of bill HB 6336 will further weave the contributions of the Borinqueneers in the fabric of America society, a distinguished military unit which has been overlooked so much in our nation's history. The street renaming will also add to the number of memorials and monuments already established around the country commemorating the 65<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment. On behalf of myself and our sponsor organization, we respectfully urge the Connecticut General Assembly to pass bill HB 6336 without reservation.

Respectfully,

*Frank Medina*

National Chair/Founder  
Borinqueneers CGM Alliance  
You Are Strong! Center on Veterans  
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